

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

USE EXCLUSION

(Acre)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

Excluding animals, people or vehicles from an area.

PURPOSE

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources or minimize liability and human health concerns.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed.

CRITERIA

Barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Where shade and/or shelter is needed in pastureland that adjoins woodland, construct the barrier inside the wooded area 50 to 100 feet from the edge of the pasture. The wooded area that is within the pastured area should be thinned until not more than one-third of the area is under tree canopy. The area around the trees should be seeded. See Pasture & Hay Planting – Code 512. Planners should take into consideration the species makeup of the existing pasture and the landowner's future pasture management plans when recommending seed mixtures. For example, tall fescue is shade tolerant, but its management requirements may be different from existing grasses.

Livestock may be excluded by one of the following:

1. *Fence. For details on type, layout, construction materials, and maintenance refer to Fence – Code 382.*
2. *Living fence or hedge. Refer to Hedgerow Planting – Code 422.*
3. *Other barriers impassable to livestock, such, as stone / rock barriers and mining high walls.*

Methods to exclude people include:

1. *Signs*
2. *Fence*
3. *Vegetation*
4. *Physical Barriers*

CONSIDERATIONS

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

See Field Office Technical Guide Reference – Real Property: Landowner Rights and Responsibilities in West Virginia and Real Property: Rural Landowner's Liability and Posting of Land.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement. Barriers should account for and minimize public safety activities such as fire control. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

The following will be identified (as appropriate):

Type of barrier

Purpose of barrier

Dimensions of barrier

Area protected

Operation and maintenance plan

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

REFERENCES

Patric, J.H., Helvey, J.D., "Some Effects of grazing on Soil and Water in the Eastern Forest," USDA Forest Service. Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, NE-GTR-115.

Selders, Arthur W., McAninch, Jay B., "High-Tensile Wire Fencing," Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service.